# DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATIONS



CITY OF SAINT PAUL Mayor Christopher B. Coleman **OPERATIONS**: 651-643-3473 **PARK PERMITS**: 651-632-5111

Facsimile: 651-632-5115

1100 Hamline Avenue North Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108

TTY: 651-266-6378 www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks

2/6/2012

Dear Saint Paul Resident,

This spring, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will be undertaking a tree canopy diversification project in Como Park. The project will occur along Hamline Avenue between Arlington Avenue and Midway Parkway.

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation staff have marked approximately 30 green ash trees for removal with red flagging in the turf area at the southeast corner of Arlington Avenue and Hamline Avenue. See the reverse side of this letter for a map illustrating project details. While these trees do not currently show signs of infestation by Emerald Ash Borer, the insect has been discovered within a mile and a half of these trees. Many of these trees are in decline and it is only a matter of time before these trees become infested. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has grant funding available in 2012 to replace these trees with a diverse variety of native tree species.

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation also has funding to remove non-native, invasive species from the woodlands along Hamline Avenue between Arlington Avenue and Midway Parkway. Parks staff, with the help of neighborhood and school volunteers, will focus on removing buckthorn and tartarian honeysuckle starting as early as mid-February. We currently have grant funding in place to replant the western half of the area. If additional funding becomes available, we will remove the invasive trees from the entire project area. The two halves of the project area are currently demarcated by yellow flagging running parallel to Hamline Avenue, approximately 30 feet east of the sidewalk.

Immediately following invasive species removal, the woodlands along Hamline Avenue will look different. However, we plan on replanting with a variety of native tree and shrub species, some up to twelve feet in height, to rapidly replace the visual screening currently provided by the invasive shrubs.

Community volunteers will be invited to assist in replanting the area with native trees and shrubs in early May. The native trees and shrubs will provide excellent wildlife habitat, improve water quality by preventing erosion, and be more aesthetically pleasing and diverse than the current buckthorn understory.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue our restoration efforts in the Como Woodlands. Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. The reforestation plan was presented to the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee in January and has also been shared with District 10. The response from both groups has been positive. If you have questions about the project, Parks and Recreation staff will be on-site at the corner of Arlington and Hamline, Wednesday, February 15 from 4:30-6pm. We'd look forward to talking with you.

Want to get involved in the restoration efforts? Email us at Environment@stpaul.gov, or visit www.stpaul.gov/naturalresources





## HAMLINE AVENUE REFORESTATION PROPOSAL

February 6, 2012



#### **GREEN ASH REMOVAL**

Area circled in green represents green ash tree removal zone. In total, there are 29 green ash, one Siberian elm, and three boxelder being considered for removal (33 mature trees total).

All trees considered for removal have been flagged with red flagging tape in this area.

#### LILAC HEDGES

The pink line represents an area where extremely large lilac hedges are growing beneath mature trees. The goal in this area will be to remove any small 'volunteer' trees and shrubs (buckthorn, green ash, boxelder, honeysuckle, etc.) and utilize a renewal pruning technique to encourage new growth, over a period of three years.

### **BUCKTHORN REMOVAL AREA**

The red polygon represents the proposed buckthorn removal area. The western and eastern halves of this area are delineated with yellow flagging in the field. Buckthorn will be removed in late winter 2012, and the area will be replanted in May 2012. The extent of removal activities will be dictated by the final amount of grant funding available for replacement plant material.